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**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Jun FUJIMOTO

Group Art Unit: 2167

Application No.: 09/452,135

Examiner: A. Fischer

Filed: December 1, 1999

Docket No.: 040320.01

For: PRODUCT DELIVERY METHODS AND SYSTEMS THEREFOR

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

In reply to the Restriction Requirement mailed September 25, 2001, Applicant provisionally elects Group I, claims 1-12, 26 and 27, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-27 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Richard J. Kim  
Registration No. 48,360

JAO:RJK/can

Date: October 25, 2001

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

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